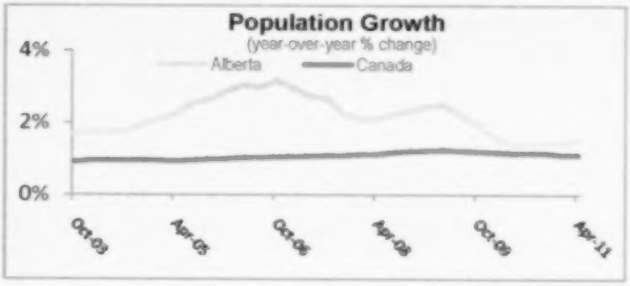
Population

Alberta welcomes newcomers ...

Alberta's population was estimated at 3,758,234 as of April 1, 2011, up 1.5% from the first quarter of 2010. With 6,561 natural growth, 5,275 net interprovincial migrants and 4,149 international migrants, migration accounted for more than half of Alberta's quarterly growth of 15,481 in the first quarter of 2011. For the sixth consecutive quarter, Alberta continued a net loss of non-permanent residents (-504).

The Canadian population grew by 1.1% year-over-year in the first quarter of 2011 to 34,349,236. Growth was recorded in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador. Net international migration declined from 61,328 in the first quarter of 2010 to 49,330 in the first quarter of 2011.



Farm Product Price Index (FPPI)

Livestock prices increase ...

The prices received by Alberta farmers for their commodities advanced 0.9% in April from March and were up 16.7% from April 2010. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase. The growth was a result of increases in livestock and animal products (1.4%) as crops declined 0.4%. Nationally, the farm product price index edged up 0.1% due to 0.7% increase in livestock and animal products offset by 1.0% drop in crops. On a year-over-year basis, the prices received by Canadian farmers were up 15.4%.

Employment Insurance

Number of beneficiaries down...

The number of employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries in Alberta declined 3.7% to 37,620 in April, the seventh consecutive fall. Year-over-year, the number of beneficiaries declined 25.6%, the largest drop in the country. Nationally in April, the number of EI beneficiaries decreased 1.1% to 598,370. On a year-over-year basis, 76,600 fewer Canadians received benefits in April 2011.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)	
June 24, 2011	101.53
June 17, 2011	102.07
2011-12 YTD	103.38
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
June 24, 2011	$91.16
June 17, 2011	$93.01
2011-12 YTD	$102.95
Nymex Natural Gas US$/MMBtu*	
Near-month Contract	
June 24, 2011	$4.23
June 17, 2011	$4.33

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Retail Trade

Albertans keep shopping...

Seasonally adjusted retail sales for Alberta were up 1.6% in April to $5.24 billion, which was a 7.4% gain over last year. Both measures were the largest increases in the country. Nationally, retail sales edged up 0.3% to $37.4 billion in April. Year-over-year, Canadian retail sales rose 3.6%.

Canadian Household Balance Sheet

Household net worth edges up ... So does debt...

Household net worth rose 1% to $6.3 trillion in the first quarter, following a 2.4% increase in the previous quarter. The ratio of household credit market debt to personal disposable income advanced to 147.3% as a 0.7% increase in personal disposable income was offset by 1.3% growth in household credit market debt.

US Economy

GDP revised....

US first quarter GDP met economists' consensus estimates to be revised up by 0.1% to 1.9% The US Federal Reserve revised their 2011 growth forecast down to 2.7%- 2.9% from 3.1%-3.3%

Other Developments

IEA releases strategic reserves...Oil price slides ...

The International Energy Agency (IEA) announced on Thursday a release of up to 60 million barrels of oil to the market from mandatory emergency stocks to fill the supply gap left by the Libyan conflict. As a result, WTI slid to its lowest level in three months.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2009	2010	2011YTD*	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Population [1] (000's) (level)	3,671	3,721	3,758	--	3,743	--	--	3,758	--
% change NEW!	2.2	1.4	1.5	--	1.4	--	--	1.5	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton [1] (level)	13,184	-2,183	8,940	--	2,510	--	--	5,275	--
Net International Migration [1] (level) NEW!	16,835	21,533	15,143	--	4,633	--	--	4,149	--
Net Non-permanent Residents [1] (level)	19,162	-77	-8,872	--	-6,725	--	--	-504	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,025	2,017	2,063	2,032	2,054	2,068	2,064	2,060	2,069
% change	-1.3	-0.4	3.0	0.5	2.2	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.4
Participation Rate (%)	74.3	72.9	73.2	72.2	73.2	73.4	73.2	73.2	72.9
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	950.13	993.13	1030.9	1012.32	1026.03	1030.49	1036.11	--	--
% change	2.9	4.5	6.2	5.4	7.0	5.9	5.8	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	-0.1	1.0	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	2.0	3.0	--
Excluding food and energy	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.4	--
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index [2]	-9.8	-0.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	-10.6	-3.9	18.6	14.3	18.0	20.7	19.1	16.7	--
Crops NEW!	-18.9	-14.5	16.3	8.2	13.2	15.5	17.6	18.9	--
Livestock	-2.8	5.7	20.5	19.6	21.7	24.8	19.6	16.0	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	20.0	27.1	21.6	21	19.1	22.4	20.8	21.4	24.3
% change	-31.6	33.5	-26.4	-23.9	-22.4	-21.7	-39.7	-27.2	-17.9
New Housing Price Index	-9.0	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.1	--
Edmonton	-11.2	-0.8	0.7	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.2	0.4	--
Calgary	-6.7	1.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	340.5	350.9	353.9	348.3	352.8	355.9	348.8	360.1	351.8
% change	-3.1	3.1	0.2	-2.3	2.4	2.5	-1.9	0.6	-2.4
Edmonton	319.1	326.5	323.0	322.0	323.1	321.8	320.2	326.4	323.3
% change	-3.5	2.3	-2.5	-2.6	0.5	-1.2	-4.6	-4.2	-2.8
Calgary	384.3	397.4	401.4	396.5	401.7	403.8	393.4	404.4	403.7
% change	-4.2	3.4	1.3	-2.0	4.3	2.3	-0.8	2.2	-1.3
Retail Sales NEW!	-8.3	6.0	5.0	7.8	4.0	4.9	3.8	7.4	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-21.7	9.3	6.7	3.9	8.9	-0.2	10.3	8.3	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	9,986	8,150	2,534	519	578	636	680	640	--
% change	64.6	-18.4	-10.8	-18.1	-15.5	-0.2	-12.4	-14.0	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	128	207	320	269	372	418	366	123	84
% change	-45.6	61.3	41.0	18.5	29.6	23.3	66.6	98.4	50.0
Goods Exports (customs based)	-36.3	11.7	10.8	8.3	10.2	6.0	15.9	--	--
Energy	-40.1	16.2	11.7	3.1	11.9	5.3	18.0	--	--
Agriculture	-10.2	-14.4	2.8	15.6	6.9	6.3	-3.4	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	-8.0	-3.9	9.3	7.1	--	--	16.7	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	-23.7	11.0	16.1	18.3	15.8	14.4	18.2	20.9	--
Wholesale Trade	-15.9	10.8	12.2	20.3	16.4	11.4	13.0	8.1	--
Building Permits	-14.2	2.1	5.9	-23.7	-21.7	50.2	-13.3	--	--
Residential	-11.8	24.7	-21.6	-20.4	-24.0	-34.0	-5.2	--	--
Non-residential	-16.3	-19.0	56.1	-27.2	-16.8	224.7	-25.0	--	--
Business Bankruptcies	405	378	95	44	30	22	26	17	--
% change	-9.4	-6.7	-33.1	37.5	11.1	-26.7	-45.8	-54.1	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

1 Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

2 Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province